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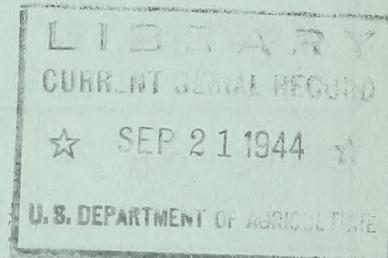
SNOW SURVEYS AND IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS

for the

COLORADO RIVER DRAINAGE BASIN

May 1, 1943

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Issued by the  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Soil Conservation Service  
Division of Irrigation  
In Cooperation with  
The Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station  
Colorado State College  
Fort Collins, Colorado

May 10, 1943

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COLORADO RIVER RAILROAD CO.

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SNOW SURVEYS AND IRRIGATION WATER FORECASTS

FOR

COLORADO RIVER BASIN

May 1, 1943

The following data pertaining to snow surveys and irrigation water-supply forecasts are provided by the Division of Irrigation, Soil Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with State departments, other federal bureaus and local organizations. The snow measurements are made principally by field personnel of the following Federal Government organizations: Forest Service, National Park Service, Geological Survey, Bureau of Reclamation, Indian Service; and the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station. This work is otherwise conducted cooperatively with the State Engineers of Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming, U. S. Geological Survey, Utah and Colorado Agricultural Experiment Stations, and various municipalities, irrigation associations, power companies, and others. Precipitation records are supplied by the U. S. Weather Bureau.

SUMMARY OF MAY 1 SNOW SURVEYS AND COMPARISON OF DATA WITH THAT OF PREVIOUS YEARS BY WATERSHEDS

WATERSHEDS	Snow Depth				Water Content			Number Courses in Average	Eight Year Avg.*	Snow Density	Percent	1943 Water Content in Percent of 1942
	Eight Year Avg.*	1942	1943	Eight Year Avg.*	1942	1943	Eight Year Avg.*					
<b>COLORADO RIVER</b>												
Green River	16.9	7.6	20.4	6.7	3.0	9.8	6	40	40	48	146	327
Colorado River**	32.7	45.3	19.0	11.6	13.5	7.4	21	35	30	39	64	55
Yampa River	33.9	37.8	13.1	14.9	14.7	6.2	5	44	39	47	42	42
White River	27.4	45.6	11.8	11.0	16.0	0.5	2	40	35	28	5	3
Gunnison River	35.6	52.5	14.5	12.8	18.3	6.1	10	36	35	42	48	33
Dolores River	15.3	19.9	3.9	5.0	7.0	1.8	4	38	35	46	36	26
San Juan River	27.8	36.9	14.5	12.4	14.7	7.3	5	45	40	50	59	50

\*Some for shorter periods

\*\*Above Grand Junction, Colorado



**P R E C I P I T A T I O N   D A T A**  
 (Based on incomplete returns)

WATERSHED	STATE	Precipitation		Departure		Precipitation		Departure	
		October 1 to April 30	Inches	Normal	Inches	Normal	Inches	April	Inches from Normal
Colorado		11.50		+0.41		0.70		-0.87	
Wyoming		8.95		+3.21		1.02		-0.02	
Green		4.55		-1.31		0.26		-0.51	
San Juan		4.01		-0.70		0.0		-0.31	
Gila		4.26		-1.36		0.11		-0.37	
Gila	New Mexico								

Precipitation on the watershed of the Colorado River and its tributaries in Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Arizona was below normal during April. The greatest deficiency for the month occurred on the watershed of the Colorado in Colorado. The accumulated precipitation since October 1 is above normal over the watershed of the Gila and San Juan.

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

Colorado River and Tributaries in Colorado. For the section of the main drainage above Grand Junction the snow cover was greatly depleted during April and the recent surveys on 21 courses show the average water content of the snow to be only 64 percent of the past eight year average and 55 percent of that of a year ago. At the higher elevations the snow pack is comparatively good at this time which is indicative of a fairly uniform river flow during the coming summer. The peak of the runoff will occur somewhat earlier this season and since the snow melt is now well under way the spring run-off is expected to cover a longer period at only a moderate high water stage. High stage of run-off may occur in some of the tributaries, such as the Blue, Roaring Fork and the North Fork of the Colorado River at Grand Lake and moderate to fairly high water of relatively short duration in the Eagle, South Fork of the Colorado and Williams Fork. The run-off in the Fraser, Troublesome, and Plateau Creek will be below normal. Because of deficient precipitation in April runoff in the Colorado drainage area will be somewhat less than that forecast last month.

For the Gunnison drainage the outlook is less promising than it was a month ago. The May first surveys show the average water content of the snow to be about one-half of the past 8-year mean and only one-third of that of a year ago. The depletion of the snow cover during April resulted largely through melting and deficient precipitation. The river stage May first was much above normal and the peak flow will probably occur prior to May fifteenth. The total run-off is expected to approximate that of last year. Soil moisture in the Uncompahgre Valley is below normal and range and crop conditions are fair to good. Planting season is about 10 days early and



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use of water for irrigation is now under way. The Taylor Park Reservoir accumulated additional storage during April and is now two-thirds full with assurance of capacity filling early in June.

On the Yampa watershed the present water content of the snow is about one-half of that of a year ago. Early melting reduced the snow cover, especially at the lower elevations. At Columbine Lodge, on Rabbit Ears Pass, the water content of the snow May first was 12 inches. The peak run-off in this stream will also be earlier than usual and will only reach a moderate stage. Soil moisture conditions continue fair to good over the irrigated area except in the western portions of Moffat and Rio Blanco counties where it is only fair. Range and crop conditions are good. More than forty small reservoirs in this valley and tributary districts now hold on the average 70 percent of their capacity with the prospect of all being at capacity at the beginning of the irrigation season.

The run-off in the White River this season will be much below normal. The recent surveys over the headwaters of this stream indicate practically no snow at the lower elevations and only high mountain heavy drifts now remain to augment the summer flow.

San Juan and Dolores: May first snow surveys on the headwaters of these streams indicate a material reduction of the water content of the snow cover. For the San Juan it was about one-half of that of a year ago and for the Dolores approximately one-third. Melting during April was largely the cause of the dissipation. The water supply outlook, at this time, continues to be fair for these two streams, with the possibility that the Dolores may not reach normal flow. Recent storms throughout the southwestern part of the state materially improved the irrigation prospects in this section of Colorado. The Vallecito Reservoir on the San Juan drainage is now at half capacity with assurance of further filling, but it is doubtful whether this reservoir will reach full capacity this season. The Ground Hog Reservoir on the Dolores drainage is also at half capacity and, because of the melting of the snow cover prior to May first, it now appears unlikely that this reservoir will fill as previously predicted. There will be no material water shortage this season on the Dolores and San Juan.

Green River. The water content of the snow cover on the headwaters of the Green, in Wyoming, is more than three times that of last year at this time and the run-off is expected to be much above normal. Melting of snow is now increasing the run-off with the peak stage earlier than usual.

#### ARIZONA

Gila and Salt Rivers. The run-off in these streams and tributaries is much below normal with falling stage. The precipitation during April has been subnormal and soil moisture conditions poor. The range is dry and fire hazards within the timbered sections are becoming acute. Reservoir storage generally is good and no serious water shortage may be expected only in such areas as are dependent upon direct stream flow. Pumping from ground water sources will add materially to the total irrigation supply.

Groundwater measurements on more than 80 wells in the San Carlos project indicate that no excessive changes occurred in any area of the District from March 1, 1942 to March 1, 1943. The average of all measurements shows a rise of 0.3 foot since March 1, 1943. Spring readings on observation wells in the Salt River project show an average drop of 3.3 feet since the spring of 1942.

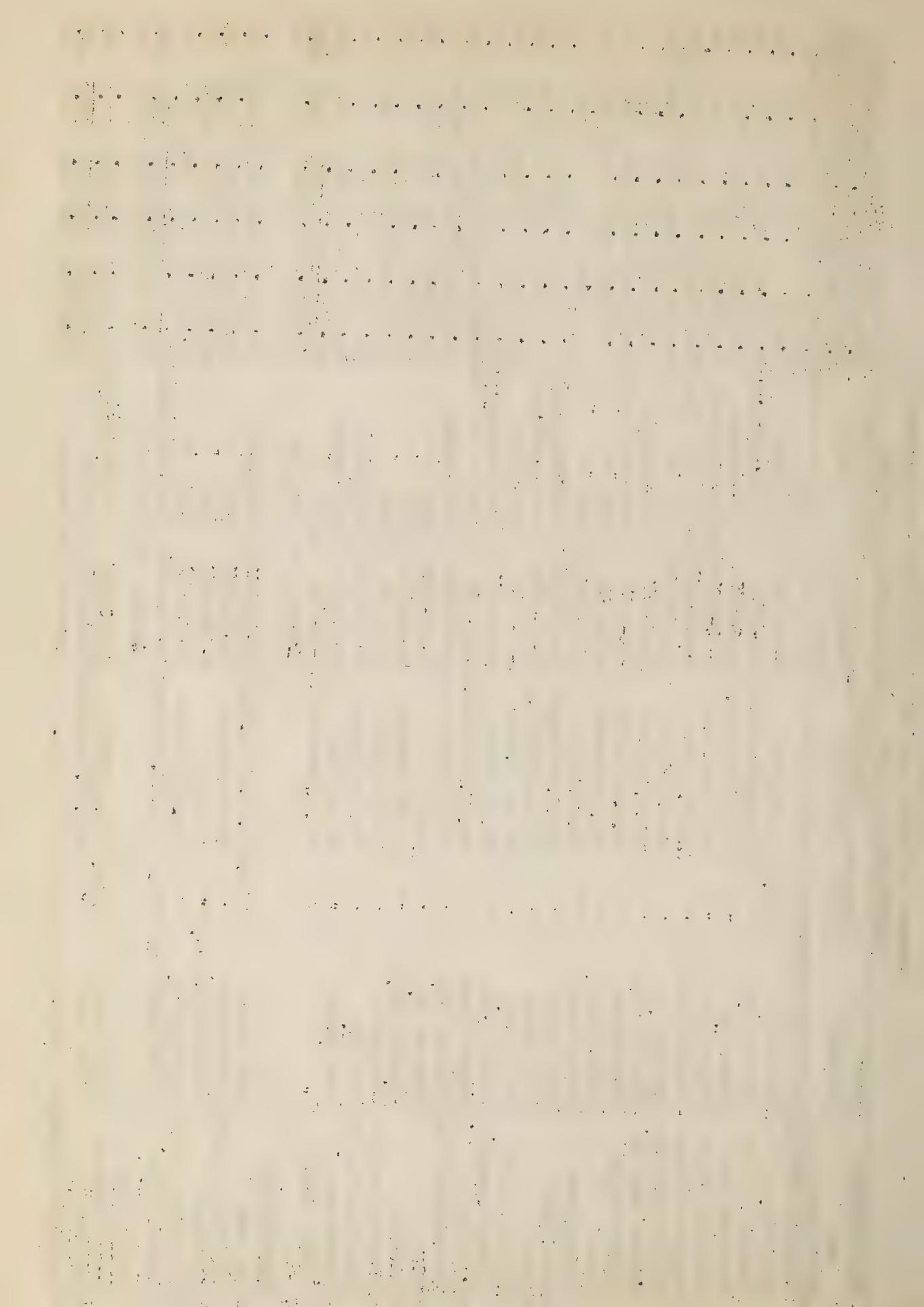


COLORADO RIVER WATERSHED

Summary of Federal and State Cooperative Snow Surveys  
Issued May 10, 1943, at Fort Collins, Colorado

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Main Drainage and Snow Course	Local Drainage	Location		Elev. National Forest	May 1 Snow Cover Measurements		Av. Water Content In.
		State	Locality		Av. 1942	Av. 1943	
COLORADO RIVER (Above Grand Junction)							
Park View*	Willow Cr.	Colo.	7 mi. SE. Rand	9200	Routt	18.8	0.1
7	Colorado R.	"	11 mi. N. Grand L.	9300	Ry. Mtn. N.P.	14.3	0.0
12	Berthoud Pass	"	4 mi. S. West Port.	9700	Arapaho	41.0	8.4
16	Tennessee Pass*	"	Tennessee Pass	10200	Cochetopa	14.3	0.0
19	Ind. Pass Tunnel	"	W. Port. Tunnel	10200	Jolly Cross	40.3	0.0
33	N. Lost Trail Cr.	"	3 mi. E. Marble	"	"	37.6	17.0
34	M. Fork Camp Gr.	"	13 mi. N. Dillon	9200	Arapaho	26.8	10.2
37	Fiddler Gulch	"	2 mi. E. Mitchell	9000	Holy Cross	40.1	0.0
44	Nast	"	23 mi. SE. Basalt	11000	"	22.1	8.1
45	Maroon Lake	"	7-11 mi. Aspen	6700	"	13.2	0.0
54	Mesa Lakes	"	8 mi. SW. Palisade	9300	"	0.9	0.0
56	Lulu	"	15 mi. E. Palisade	10000	Grand Mesa	41.9	4.5
59	Willow Creek P.	"	14 mi. N. Grand L.	10200	Ry. Mtn. N.P.	55.1	1.1
62	N. Inlet Cr.	"	Willow Cr. Pass	9500	Arapaho	33.8	16.6
64	Lake Irene	"	1-4 mi. NE. Grand L.	9000	Ry. Mtn. N.P.	22.8	3.1
65	Thunderbolt Peak	"	26-44 mi. 75W	10600	"	11.0	3.1
66	Arrow	"	25-60 mi. 76W	9500	Arapaho	13.1	3.1
69	Lapland	"	1-4 mi. 78W	9900	"	14.5	3.1
70	Fremont Pass	"	8-55 mi. 75W	9300	"	7.7	3.6
79	Fremont Pass #2	"	22-28 mi. 74W	11400	Routt	64.8	20.9
91	Lynx Pass No. 2	"	34-41 mi. 75W	9100	Arapaho	39.0	12.5
96	Shrine Pass	"	16-25 mi. 76W	10500	"	52.3	12.5
97	Grizzly Peak	"	2-8 mi. 79W	11250	Routt	20.8	12.5
			7 mi. NE. Toponas		Arapaho	49.8	12.5
			7 mi. W. Loveland P.		"	56.0	12.5
			7 mi. SW. Fraser		"	45.0	12.5
			Fremont Pass		"	19.2	12.5
			7 mi. NE. Toponas		"	33.2	12.5
			Shrine Pass		"	49.6	12.5
			1 mi. W. Loveland P.		"	63.4	12.5
			7 mi. SW. Fraser		"	20.8	12.5
			Fremont Pass		"	46.9	12.5
			7 mi. NE. Toponas		"	27.6	12.5
			Shrine Pass		"	43.6	12.5
			1 mi. W. Loveland P.		"	66.9	12.5
			7 mi. SW. Fraser		"	45.1	12.5
			Fremont Pass		"	19.0	12.5
			7 mi. NE. Toponas		"	11.6	12.5
			Shrine Pass		"	32.7	12.5
			1 mi. W. Loveland P.		"	45.3	12.5
			7 mi. SW. Fraser		"	19.0	12.5
			Fremont Pass		"	11.6	12.5
			7 mi. NE. Toponas		"	32.7	12.5
			Shrine Pass		"	45.1	12.5
			1 mi. W. Loveland P.		"	19.0	12.5
			7 mi. SW. Fraser		"	11.6	12.5
			Fremont Pass		"	32.7	12.5
			7 mi. NE. Toponas		"	45.1	12.5
			Shrine Pass		"	19.0	12.5
			1 mi. W. Loveland P.		"	11.6	12.5
			7 mi. SW. Fraser		"	32.7	12.5
			Fremont Pass		"	45.1	12.5
			7 mi. NE. Toponas		"	19.0	12.5
			Shrine Pass		"	11.6	12.5
			1 mi. W. Loveland P.		"	32.7	12.5
			7 mi. SW. Fraser		"	45.1	12.5
			Fremont Pass		"	19.0	12.5
			7 mi. NE. Toponas		"	11.6	12.5
			Shrine Pass		"	32.7	12.5
			1 mi. W. Loveland P.		"	45.1	12.5
			7 mi. SW. Fraser		"	19.0	12.5
			Fremont Pass		"	11.6	12.5
			7 mi. NE. Toponas		"	32.7	12.5
			Shrine Pass		"	45.1	12.5
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			Shrine Pass		"	19.0	12.5
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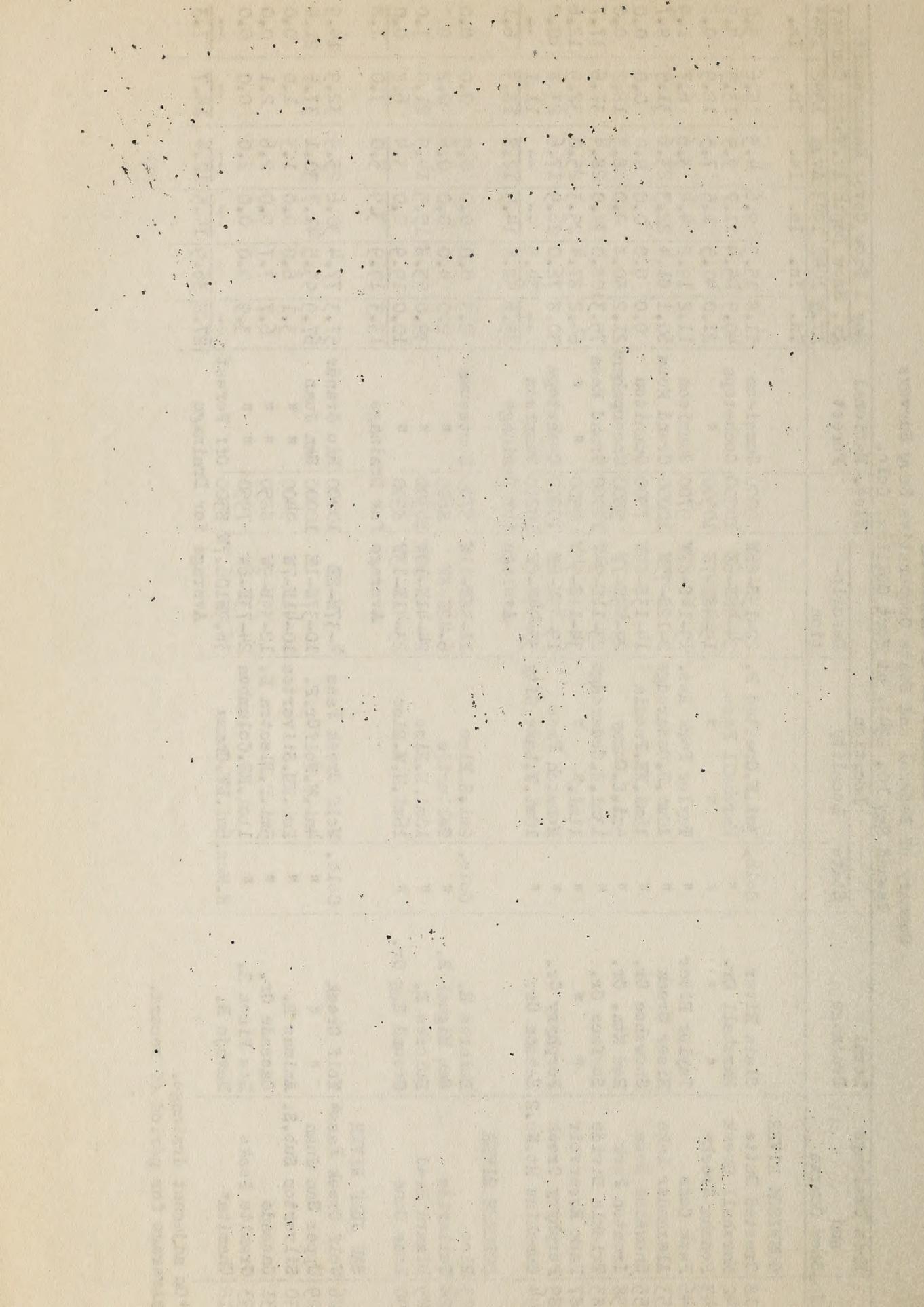
## COLORADO RIVER WATERSHED

Summary of Federal and State Cooperative Snow Surveys  
Issued May 10, 1943, at Fort Collins, Colo.

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					In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.
GUNNISON RIVER		Colo.	3mi.N.Crested B. Marshall Pass	22-13S-86W 24-48N-6E	9000	Gunnison	11.8	15.9	9.6	4.5	5.6	3.0	4.9	4.9	3.0	4.9
18 Crested Butte	Slate River	"	"	19-48N-7E	10800	Cochetopa	40.5	45.4	11.7	9.9	13.5	4.5	4.9	4.9	4.5	4.9
42 Marshall Creek	Marshall Cr.	"	"	10500	"	"	21.0	40.5	1.5	7.5	12.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
43 Poncha Creek*		Taylor Park Res.	19-14S-82W	9700	Gunnison	11.2	19.2	4.4	3.6	6.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	
46 Park Cone	Taylor River	"	10Mi.N.Cedaredge	2-12S-95W	10000	Grand Mesa	60.1	81.4	22.3	23.6	31.5	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7
53 Alexander Lake	Kiser Creek	"	16mi.N.E.Paonia	14-13S-89W	7500	Gunnison	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
55 Snowshoe Mesa	Snowshoe Cr.	"	5mi.S.Quray	29-43N-7W	9800	Uncompahgre	21.2	50.8	0.0	8.3	18.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
58 Ironton Park	Red Mtn. Cr.	"	13mi.N.Cedaredge	23-11S-94W	10000	Grand Mesa	75.3	108.0	39.0	28.4	37.6	17.7	17.7	17.7	17.7	17.7
85 Trickle Divide	Surface Cr.	"	11mi." "	34-11S-94W	9500	"	64.2	87.4	29.3	25.0	32.9	12.6	12.6	12.6	12.6	12.6
87 Park Reservoir	Porphry Cr.	"	Monarch Pass	19-49N-6E	10800	Cochetopa	50.8	76.0	26.9	17.6	23.8	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2
89 Sunshine Creek	Lake City	"	10Mi.W.Lake City	35-44N-6W	10200	Gunnison	--	34.5	--	--	11.1	--	--	--	--	--
94 Sunshine Mt.No.2	Henson Cr.		Average for Drainage		35.6	52.5	14.5	12.8	12.8	12.8	18.3	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1
DOLORES RIVER																
23 Rico	Dolores R.	Colo.	2mi.S.Rico	11-38N-11W	8700	Montezuma	2.3	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
24 Telluride	San Miguel R.	"	Telluride	6-42N-8W	8600	"	2.0	4.0	0.0	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
	Dolores R.	"	10mi.N.Rico	24-41N-10W	10300	"	39.0	55.8	15.5	14.9	21.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0
	Ground Hog Cr.	"	16mi.N.W.Rico	23-41N-13W	8900	"	10.0	19.9	0.0	3.4	6.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
			Average for Drainage		13.3	19.9	3.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	7.0					
SAN JUAN RIVER																
26 Wolf Creek Pass*	Wolf Creek	Colo.	4-37N-2E	10000	Rio Grande	57.3	77.4	30.6	25.9	32.9	14.9	14.9	14.9	14.9	14.9	14.9
29 Upper San Juan	"	"	10-37N-1E	10000	San Juan	67.9	93.5	41.7	30.1	37.5	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.4
30 Silverton Sub.S.	Animas R.	"	10-41N-7W	9400	"	3.1	6.0	0.0	1.3	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
31 Cascade	Cascade Cr.	"	5mi.N.Electra I.	12-39N-9W	8850	"	6.7	7.7	0.0	2.6	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
93 Granite Peaks	Los Pinos R.	"	11mi.NE.Columbus	24-73N-6W	7950	"	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
18 Chamita*	Navajo R.	N.Mex.	6mi.NW.Chama	36.9N106.7W	8500	Off Forest	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
			Average for Drainage		27.8	36.9	14.5	12.4	12.4	12.4	14.7	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3

\*On adjacent drainage.

\*Average for period of record.



**COLORADO RIVER WATERSHED**  
Summary of Federal and State Cooperative Snow Surveys  
Issued May 10, 1943, at Fort Collins, Colorado.

Main Drainage and Snow Course	Local Drainage	State	Locality	Location	Descrip- tion	Elev. Forest	National Forest		May 1 Snow Cover		Measurements	
							Av. 1942		Av. 1943		Av. 1942	
							Av. @	In.	Av. @	In.	Av. @	In.
GREEN RIVER												
23 Dutch Joe R.S.	Dutch Joe Cr.	Wyo.	12mi.N.Elkhorn	33-31N-104W	8700	Wyoming	8.0	1.8	2.1	2.7	0.6	0.8
24 Mulligan Park	Surveyor Cr.	"	Fremont Lake	17-35N-108W	8900	"	16.2	11.7	21.9	6.0	4.0	10.0
25 Kendall R.S.	Green River	"	27mi.NW.Pinedale	23-38N-110W	7900	"	10.5	2.9	19.9	4.6	1.4	9.5
26 Loomis Park	Beaver Cr.	"	25mi.NW.	14-37N-111W	8500	"	23.8	12.8	30.0	9.8	5.3	14.6
27 Snyder Basin R.S.	S.Piney Cr.	"	22mi.W.Big Piney	15-29N-114W	8040	"	13.9	0.0	16.3	5.5	0.0	7.8
28 Piney-LaBarge	LaBarge Cr.	"	24mi.W.Big Piney	19-29N-114W	8820	"	29.0	16.7	32.3	11.6	6.6	15.8
							16.9	7.6	20.4	6.7		9.8
							Average for drainage					

@Average for period of record

## RESERVOIR STORAGE

Reservoir Storage in Thousands of Acre-Feet, Colorado and Arizona, as of May 1 for the years 1934 to 1943, inclusive. (Based on data from the Bureau of Reclamation, Salt River Water Users' Association and other agencies.) A = Percentage of capacity. B = Percentage of 10-year average. C = Percentage of filling forecast for 1943.

Reservoir	Capacity	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	10-Year Avg. <sup>a</sup>	A %	B %	C %
	Ac-Ft.	Ac-Ft.	Ac-Ft.	Ac-Ft.	Ac-Ft.	Ac-Ft.	Ac-Ft.	Ac-Ft.	Ac-Ft.	Ac-Ft.	Ac-Ft.	Ac-Ft.	Ac-Ft.	Ac-Ft.	Ac-Ft.
<b>UPPER COLORADO DRAINAGE</b>															
Taylor Park	106.2	--	--	--	--	32.8	78.0	45.0	32.7	83.2	68.0	56.6	64	120	100
Vallecito	126.3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.9	44.1	60.2	35.4	48	170	70
Ground Hog	21.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.1	1.5	21.2	14.5	9.8	67	148	80
Green Mtn.	146.9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	52.0	--	--	--	--
<b>SALT AND GILA DRAINAGES</b>															
Roosevelt	1420.0	244.1	503.1	507.6	978.0	437.4	94.1	11.1	1398.4	1366.3	1182.2	672.2	83	176	--
Horse Mesa	245.1	188.0	219.2	237.8	240.3	236.2	213.5	68.4	239.6	224.9	236.4	210.4	96	112	--
Mormon Flat	58.0	40.3	51.3	40.4	33.3	47.2	42.2	50.8	57.2	46.4	43.8	45.3	76	97	--
Stewart Mt.	70.0	49.4	43.0	41.9	59.9	50.8	42.2	35.4	65.9	58.1	60.9	50.8	87	120	--
Bartlett	200.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	1.8	182.6	101.8	35.2	80.4	18	44	--
Carl Pleasant	173.0	0.6	55.2	12.8	102.7	25.9	8.6	5.3	184.5	70.8	4.8	47.1	3	10	--
San Carlos	1200.0	62.0	176.9	169.4	261.1	68.5	21.0	34.0	691.6	792.1	519.9	279.7	43	186	--

Some averages for shorter periods.

